

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing yeast fermentation of wort, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) suspending yeast in a wort-free aqueous solution comprising liquid adjunct in an amount sufficient to give a gravity in the range of from about 2 to about 25 degrees Plato;
- (b) aerating the suspension for a period of time with a gas comprising oxygen to allow oxygen uptake by the yeast required for sterol and unsaturated fatty acid synthesis;
- (c) transferring the yeast of step (b) to a suitable volume of wort having a gravity comparable to the gravity of the solution of step (a); and
- (d) allowing fermentation to occur under suitable fermentation conditions to produce beer.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein zinc is added to the yeast suspension.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the wort is nonaerated wort.

Claims 8-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the wort is aerated wort.

Claims 12-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the gas is delivered above a maximum oxygen uptake rate of the yeast.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method for fermenting wort, the method comprising:

(a) suspending yeast in a wort-free aqueous solution comprising liquid adjunct in an amount sufficient to give a gravity in the range of from about 2 to about 25 degrees Plato;

(b) aerating the suspension for a period of time with a gas comprising oxygen to allow oxygen uptake by the yeast required for sterol and unsaturated fatty acid synthesis;

(c) transferring the yeast of step (b) to a suitable volume of non-aerated wort having a gravity comparable to the gravity of the solution of step (a);

(d) allowing fermentation of the wort to occur to produce beer; and

(e) monitoring the wort for an end of fermentation,
wherein the end of fermentation is reached in a shorter time than a fermentation method wherein aerated wort is pitched with a non-aerated yeast slurry.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the yeast is brewer's yeast.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein zinc is added to the yeast suspension.